



**LOS ALAMOS**  
where discoveries are made

## **FY22 Work Plan for Los Alamos County Boards and Commissions**

**(Fiscal Year 2022: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)**

**Board and Commission Name: Environmental Sustainability Board**

**Date prepared: April 15, 2021**

**Date approved by Council: June 29, 2021**

**Prepared by: ESB**

**This work plan will be accomplished in the following time frame: July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022**

**Chairperson: Erik Loechell**

**Members and Terms:**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Start/End Dates</b>	<b>Term</b>
<b>Erik Loechell</b>	<b>8/1/2018 – 7/31/2022</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Alesia Benson</b>	<b>8/1/2020 – 7/31/2022</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Heidi Rogers</b>	<b>8/1/2019 – 7/31/2021</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Heather Ward</b>	<b>8/1/2019 – 7/31/2021</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Amanda Macdonald</b>	<b>8/1/2017 – 7/31/2021</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Brendon Parsons</b>	<b>8/1/2020 – 7/31/2022</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Dina Pesenson</b>	<b>8/1/2020 – 7/31/2022</b>	<b>1</b>

**Department Director: Anne Laurent, Public Works Department**

**Work plan developed in collaboration with Department Director? (Y/N?) Y**

**Staff Liaison: Angelica Gurule**

**Administrative Support provided by: Public Works Staff**

**Council Liaison: Sean Williams**

**Reviewed by Council Liaison? Y**

**1.0 Provide a brief Summary of your Board or Commission’s activities over the past twelve months. Please describe your Board or Commission’s accomplishments and identify constraints. List any “lessons learned” and identify the greatest challenges faced by the Board or Commission.**

- ESB member served on Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee hosted by Department of Public Utilities.
- Continued supporting implementation of the Yard Trimming Roll Cart Program to 69% of households (4,788) and diverted 2,367 tons of yard trimming material in the past 2.5 years.
- Continued implementing Zero Waste Initiatives
  - Premiered the drive-in movie of Just Eat It: A Food Waste movie and hosted a panel discussion with the producer of the movie. Developed ways to reach Los Alamos County Citizens virtually during the COVID-19 Pandemic by maintaining the Zero Waste Los Alamos Facebook group, published articles in PEEC Nature Notes as well as published monthly Zero Waste articles and tips focused on food waste prevention and other waste reduction methods. Hosted a Food Waste Prevention presentation by Shelby Wood for the community as well as for Voices of Los Alamos.
  - Assisted in the creation and distribution of 320 backyard compost kits in effort to reduce food waste sent to the landfill. The project was a collaboration between PEEC and Los Alamos County and was funded in part by New Mexico Clean and Beautiful, Los Alamos County, and Enterprise Bank and Trust.
  - Distributed 1,900 sets of reusable utensils to Aspen Elementary, Barranca Elementary, Los Alamos Middle School and Los Alamos High School in an effort to reduce waste from lunch service across the school district.
- Successfully hosted two Quaran-Clean Up Los Alamos Day’s in compliance with COVID Safe Practices.
- Received the following presentations:
  - Recycle Coach Overview by Angelica Gurule
  - Black Bears in New Mexico Information Presentation by Bob Osborn of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
  - Teaching Practical Strategies for Reducing Waste Food Through Community Events – A Webinar Overview by Angelica Gurule
  - A Discussion with Author Laura Paskus about New Mexico’s Changing Climate

- Glyphosate – A Round Up the Research by Heidi Rogers, ESB Member
- Discard Hierarchy by Sarah Pierpont, of New Mexico Recycle Coalition
- Recycling Program Update by Morris Friedman of Friedman Recycling
- Organics Collection in Christ Church, New Zealand, by Erik Loechell
- Open Meeting Act Overview by Katie Thwaits
- Supported 2020 The People’s EcoChallenge with participation from 40 community members in two teams that ranked #91 and #129 nationally.
- Continued promoting Recycle Coach App to Los Alamos residents to reduce recycling contamination, provide real time notifications and educate residents on Environmental Services programs (1,562 users)
- Continued Food Waste Prevention Education
- Co-Sponsored the Virtual Recycle Art Fair & Fashion Show with Los Alamos Public Schools in celebration of America Recycles Day with 15 participants for the fashion show and over 100 artists
- Discussion items included:
  - Environmental Services Budget Projections
  - Food Waste Composting and Feasibility Study
  - NMED Annual report on the closed landfill and transfer station
- Conducted education and outreach activities at the following events:
  - Just Eat It Panel Discussion
  - Just Eat It Drive-In Movie

**2.0 Describe the future work plans for this Board or Commission using the following items and showing the relationship to those items: *(Please remember that Council approval of this work plan does not constitute official Council approval of proposed projects, assignments, or anticipated recommendations included in this work plan that have budget implications.)***

**2.1 List any special projects or assignments given to this Board or Commission by Council or the Department director:**

- Assist Environmental Services in their efforts to conduct municipal food waste composting feasibility study.
- Assist as needed with recommendations on the code development related to the carts, exemptions for those in need, education, outreach and roll out of the bear carts and dumpsters
- Collaborate with Department of Utilities and PEEC at annual Water Festival
- Partner with Chamber of Commerce to develop locally recognized Green Business Certification
- Host 19<sup>th</sup> annual Clean Up LA Day
- Maintain a balanced budget for Environmental Services operations
- Contribute, as appropriate, to the implementation of the Yard Trimming Collection program (3<sup>rd</sup> bin for organic yard trimming material)
- Partner with LA Public Schools to host Recycle Art Fair and Fashion Show
- Continue supporting LA public schools in their efforts towards resiliency and sustainability.
- Continue to increase participation/users for the Recycle Coach app.
- Continue to support Zero Waste education and services for County events including the summer concert series.

<b>2.2 List the guiding documents/plans (with approval or revision dates listed) used by this Board or Commission.</b>
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- Environmental Sustainability Plan
- Environmental Sustainability Board Work Plan

<b>2.3 Other projects/assignments proposed by the Board or Commission: (<i>Any projects or activities proposed in this section should be discussed with the Council Liaison prior to listing it in this work plan.</i>) To assist with Council review of the work plans, please list the B&amp;C's proposed projects or assignments in priority order.</b>
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Composting:

- Provide feedback for the food waste composting feasibility study
- Promote back yard composting for food waste diversion
- Monitor existing bio-solid composting program

Community Education/Events:

- Participate in Bear Festival and provide other educational outreach materials to promote wildlife awareness
- Develop and implement environmental education and outreach materials and distribute to residents at community events such as ScienceFest, Farmer's Markets, ChamberFest, Earth Day, Bike to Work Week, and Bear Festival.
- Host Zero Waste Champion of the Year Award
- Collaborate with organizations such as Chamber of Commerce, PEEC, LAPS, and UNM-LA to educate about recycle and zero waste initiatives.
- Partner with County to promote "zero waste"
- Partner with Chamber of Commerce to develop locally recognized Green Business Certification
- Promote and participate in EcoChallenge

Work with Schools:

- Continue to work with LAPS to educate and implement waste diversion and prevention programs including zero waste lunches, reduce, recycle, reuse and composting by participating in the Green Schools Task Force
- Host Recycle Fair and Fashion Show
- Partner with Utilities and PEEC at Water Festival

Continued Research Areas:

- Continue researching other glass recycling options
- Continue to investigate Waste to Energy Methods
- Research and become knowledgeable about Project Drawdown in support of carbon reduction goals and disseminate recommendations for Environmental Services Sustainability Plan
- Explore Bee City Programs
- Research extent of use of pesticide usage within the County operations
- Explore and understand surface water run-off from Los Alamos County

**• 3.0 Identify any interfaces for the goals/tasks in this work plan with County Departments and other Boards and Commissions. Specify the coordination required.**

- Continue to nurture and strengthen relationship with BPU, DPU and Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy and Sustainability Task Force to support energy, water quality and water conservation.
- Continue to outreach to other Boards and Commissions (Parks and Rec and CDAB) regarding pesticides and herbicide use.
- Participate in the process of code development updates, specifically related to energy reduction and green building requirements or incentives
- Continue to be available to other county boards and commissions regarding environmental sustainability
- Liaison to and partner with Los Alamos Resiliency, Energy and Sustainability Task Force on recommendations to County Council regarding waste, recycling, and composting.

Task is added to ensure that the 3 boards work as a team developing a policy and public education program.

**4.0 List any special public information or involvement meetings or efforts to be conducted by this Board or Commission:**

The ESB will sponsor the events with an asterisk\* and will host outreach and educational booths at the other events listed below to educate, share information, and solicit input from LAC residents and customers. The ESB will provide prior notification to the public utilizing a minimum of one media platform such as but not limited to: Facebook, press release, LA Daily Post paid advertisement, Environmental Services website, bill insert, newspaper insert, LAVA Flyers, and/or County Line Newsletter. The ESB may also utilize County Open Forum Survey as a resource to solicit public input. The cost for the ESB public outreach efforts is budgeted in the Environmental Services budget.

- Earth Day Festival
- Bear Festival
- Los Alamos Summer Concert Series
- Green Team Event\*
- County Fair Event
- Science Festival
- Chamber Festival
- Farmer's Market (2 events)
- Recycle Art Fair & Fashion Show\*

- Eco Challenge\*
- Zero waste, recycling and/or composting workshops or lectures at PEEC and Los Alamos clubs\*

**5.0 List the current subcommittees for this Board or Commission.**

**5.1 For subcommittees with members that are not members of the parent board or commission: List the subcommittee members and their terms.**

**Explain how sub- committee members are selected or appointed.**

**Provide a description of each subcommittee’s charter or purpose.**

**Describe the expected duration for the subcommittee and their work plan(s) demonstrating how they support the Board or Commission:**

**Attachment A: Provide a copy of your Board or Commission’s “Purpose” and “Duties and Responsibilities” from Chapter 8 of the County Code:**

**Attachment B: Using the chart below, place an X in the column on the right if the Council Goal is related to the work of the Environmental Sustainability Board**

**ARTICLE X. - ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BOARD**

**Sec. 8-231. - Purpose.** The environmental sustainability board is established to serve as the central point of contact for environmental sustainability issues and as an advisory body to the county council on environmental sustainability issues.

(Ord. No. 02-078, § 2, 10-3-2006; Ord. No. 02-094, § 2, 6-10-08)

- **Sec. 8-232. - Membership, terms and qualifications.** The board shall consist of seven members. The members shall serve for staggered two-year terms beginning on August 1 and ending on July 31, except that three members on the initial board shall only serve for one-year terms.

(Ord. No. 02-078, § 2, 10-3-2006; Ord. No. 02-094, § 3, 6-10-08)

- **Sec. 8-233. - Duties and responsibilities.** The environmental sustainability board shall serve in an advisory capacity to the county council and shall have the following functions, responsibilities and duties:

- (1) Gather and provide citizen input to staff and council on ways to improve the county's environmental sustainability and on proposed environmental sustainability policies, programs and services. For this purpose, the board shall gather public input in ways appropriate to the circumstances.
- (2) Recommend ways to involve and educate the community on environmental sustainability issues. Review and comment on public involvement and information plans (PIIPs) related to environmental sustainability projects outside the department of public utilities.
- (3) Review and comment to council on environmental sustainability master plans.
- (4) Review all environmental sustainability related matters submitted to the board by council.
- (5) Coordinate with other boards as appropriate on environmental sustainability activities.

(Ord. No. 02-078, § 2, 10-3-2006; Ord. No. 02-094, § 4, 6-10-08)



## Council Goals and Priority Areas

Enhancing quality of life, economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and racial equity and inclusivity are overarching goals that will be components of all our efforts as we coordinate with Los Alamos National Laboratory and regional partners and plan for appropriate levels of County services.	
Enhancing Communication	
Enhancing communication with the public to promote transparency and strengthen trust in County government.	X
Increasing the Amount and Types of Housing Options	
This includes increasing the variety of housing options for all segments of the community, from affordable to new options for those interested in downsizing or moving closer to central areas of the community, and pursuing opportunities for utilization of vacant spaces to address these needs.	
Protecting, Maintaining, and Improving Our Open Spaces, Recreational, and Cultural Amenities	
Los Alamos County open spaces and cultural attractions are greatly valued by the community and provide opportunities for recreational and economic growth; appropriately allocating resources to ensure their health and sustainability is important to our citizens.	X
Enhancing Support and Opportunities for the Local Business Environment	
This includes appropriately supporting existing businesses, growing new businesses, supporting technology start-ups and spin-offs, and identifying opportunities for utilizing vacant space as a part of these efforts.	X
Supporting Social Services Improvement	
Behavioral, mental, and physical health and social services are important quality of life components; there are key areas where appropriate types and levels of County support could help address current needs	
Improving Access to High Quality Broadband	
Enabling reliable high-speed broadband service throughout the county by determining appropriate investments (e.g., conduct a community needs analysis, evaluate technical options).	
Investing in Infrastructure	
Appropriately balancing maintenance of existing infrastructure with new investments in county utilities, roads, trails, expanded transit options, facilities and amenities, which will help improve environmental stewardship, sustainability, and quality of life, while allowing for sustainable growth.	X